

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CCO-00

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DRAFTED BY S/CCT:EWSCHAEFER/NEA/ARN:PBULLEN

APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:ADAY

S/CCT - RAFAREY

S/S-0 - PJOHNSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 163207 TOSEC 060082

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: ABDUCTION OF US ARMY OFFICER IN BEIRUT

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE SITUATION AS OF 1900 HOURS EDT,
JULY 10, 1975 AS REGARDS THE ABDUCTION OF COLONEL MORGAN.

2. THE CHAIRMAN OF THIS WASHINGTON TASK FORCE TALKED WITH
AMBASSADOR GODLEY AT 1300 EDT JULY 10. GODLEY SAID THAT
THE SITUATION WAS GETTING VERY COMPLEX. DISSENSION WAS
MOUNTING BETWEEN THE RIGHT AND LEFT AMONG THE PALESTINIANS
AND THERE HAD JUST BEEN A SHOOTING WHEN SEARCH ELEMENTS HAD
COME CLOSE TO A PLACE SUSPECTED OF BEING MORGAN'S PLACE OF
INCARCERATION.

3. EMBASSY BEIRUT HAS CABLED ITS ANALYSIS OF THE DEVELOPING
SITUATION, COMMENTING THAT ARAFAT AND THE PLO "MODERATES"
HAVE STARTED ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE PALESTINIAN
"REJECTIONISTS." THIS PROCESS BEGAN WHEN ARAFAT AND HIS
ASSOCIATES ACCEPTED THE TASK OF SECURING MORGAN'S RELEASE,
ENGAGING THEIR PRESTIGE AND THEIR CLAIM TO REPRESENT THE
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PALESTINIANS. THE RECENT PLO COMMUNIQUE PROMISES

RETRIBUTION TO THE POPULAR STRUGGLE FRONT (PSF) AND JIBRIL'S PFLP/GC, IN HOPES THAT THIS WOULD TIGHTEN THE SCREWS ON THE ABDUCTOR; ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM GIVE UP COL. MORGAN. A

SUBSEQUENT "REJECTIONIST" COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT DIRECTLY REFUTE THE PLO COMMUNIQUE, BUT IT INVIEGHS AGAINST "RIGHTIST" AND "REACTIONARY" ELEMENTS AND ATTACKS THE "CLASS NATURE" OF THE PLO COMMAND IN LANGUAGE REMINISCENT OF THE LATEST MESSAGE ISSUED BY MORGAN'S ABDUCTORS. -

4. THE EMBASSY OBSERVED THAT ARAFAT HAS PRIVATELY INDICATED THAT HE WOULD MOVE AGAINST THE "REJECTIONISTS" AT SOME POINT, AND MANY OBSERVERS NOW EXPECT PLO ELEMENTS TO MOVE MILITARILY AGAINST SOME "REJECTIONIST" INSTALLATIONS INSIDE REFUGEE CAMPS IN AN EFFORT TO FIND MORGAN. THIS WOULD CREATE SERIOUS RISK FOR THE STILL-FRAGILE STATE OF PUBLIC SECURITY IN BEIRUT, AND, WHILE PLO PRESSURE ON MORGAN'S KIDNAPPERS MAY BE HELPFUL, IT COULD PUSH THOSE HOLDING HIM TO EXTREME ACTION ESPECIALLY IF SUCH EFFORTS COME CLOSE TO HIS PLACE OF DETENTION. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, KIDNAPPING, MILITARY PERSONNEL, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE163207
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EWSCHAEFER/NEA/ARN:PBULLEN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750239-0346
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750763/aaaaceoz.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABDUCTION OF US ARMY OFFICER IN BEIRUT
TAGS: PINS, CASC, LE, US, (MORGAN, ERNEST R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006